



Australian Bureau of Statistics

2903.0.55.002 - How Australia Takes a Census, 2006

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 17/07/2006 First Issue

MEDIA RELEASE

July 17, 2006

Embargoed 11:30am (AEST)

C20/2006

Conference highlights value of Census data

The Census of Population and Housing is fast approaching. The great majority of people are aware that they need to fill in a Census form on Census night, 8 August, but they may not know the ways in which Census data is used.

To showcase the many valuable uses of Census data, the Australian Bureau of Statistics will be hosting the first Census Analysis Conference tomorrow and Wednesday (18/19 July) in Canberra at Rydges Lakeside.

Papers to be delivered at the conference give examples of how Census data can be used in the community, with papers on topics related to: child health research; mental health research; natural resource management; education; vocational education and training; government service delivery and state budgets. There is information on how local government uses the data, how Census figures give us a picture of the changing face of coastal areas, the ageing of our workforce and how a charity uses Census data.

The conference has been aimed at people who use or should be using the Census in their everyday decision making, such as academics, market researchers and those people (specifically government) who use data in their policy and decision making.

New products and services which will be made available from 2006 Census data will also be highlighted at the conference.

A number of invited speakers will be presenting at the conference including:

- Dr Natalie Jackson (University of Tasmania);
- Professor Graeme Hugo (University of Adelaide);
- Dr Bob Birrell (Monash University);
- Associate Professor Chris Chamberlain (RMIT University) and Mr David Mackenzie (Swinburne University);
- Professor Peter McDonald (Australian National University); and
- Professor Ann Harding (University of Canberra).

With over 300 attendees, 40 speakers and 7 exhibitors, this conference is a great opportunity for the media to gain an insight into the many and varied uses of Census data.

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